

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

General Meeting Friday December 4, 1998

Party party party at the Atwood Center

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AARC Club Roster

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Officers

President	Peter Bailey WL7BW
Vice President	Susan Woods NL7NN
Secretary	Marcia Knutson AL7RE
Treasurer	Paul Spatzek WL7BF
Trustee	John Wolfe AA0NN
Activities Chairman	John Lynn KL0CY
News Letter Editor	Edythe Lynn KL0EO
Membership Chairman	Fred Erickson KL7VC
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 John Orella KL7LL
 Harvey Rookus NL7DK

One Year Board Members

Dianne Hammer NL7KN
 Rob Wilson AL7KK
 Corney Eastman KL0FK
 Richard O'Connor WL7CPG
 Dave Filley WL7CDJ

AARC web page & Email contact addresses:

<http://kl7aa.akconnect.com>

president to windsman@alaska.net

webmaster to kl7aa@lawson.akconnect.com

membership to frederickson@iname.com

activities to johnlynn@gci.net

News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:

Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting

Email: johnlynn@gci.net Facsimile: 907-338-4791

Mail: 7013 Trafford Ave. Anchorage 99504

KL7G CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Schedule: 7:00am, 10:00am, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm
 AK time, every day Frequencies: 3575 KHz and 145.35 MHz
 Sending Speeds: 22 wpm, 15 wpm, 7 wpm

Nets in Alaska:

The following nets are active in South-central Alaska:
 Alaska Sniper's Net 3.920 MHz 6:00 PM daily
 Alaska Bush Net 7.093 MHz 8:00 PM daily
 Alaska Motley Net 3.933 Mhz 9:00 PM daily
 Alaska Pacific Emergency Preparedness Net 14.292 MHz 8:30 AM M-F
 QCWA net 146.97/.37 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM local
 850 No Name Net 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM
 Son of Sideband Net 144.20 USB Mondays 9:00 PM local
 Big City Simplex Net 146.520 FM Tuesdays 8:00 PM local
 ARES net 147.30/.90 Mhz Thursdays at 8:00 PM local
 PARKA net 147.30/.90 Mhz Thursdays at 9:00 PM local

Anchorage & Mat Valley Area Repeaters

KL7AA systems at Flattop Mt., 2,200 ft
 146.34/94 Mhz, 80 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 Hz PL
 223.34/224.94, 25 watts, no patch, no PL
 444.70/449.70, 25 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 PL
 KL7ION at Mt. Gordon Lyon 4,700 ft
 147.30/90 Mhz - 80 watts, no patch, no PL
 KL7AA, Mt. Alyeska, 2,400 ft.
 146.16/76 Mhz, 25 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL
 KL7CC, Anchorage Hillside, SCRC club
 146.97/.37 Mhz, autopatch, 103.5 Hz PL
 KL7DJE at Grubstake Peak, 4,500 ft.
 147.09/.69 Mhz, 25 watts, no patch, 100 Hz PL
 444.925/449.925, 10 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL
 KL7JFU, Palmer, MARA club
 146.85/.25, autopatch, no PL
 KL7AIR Elmendorf, EARS
 147.27/.87 no patch, 107.2 Hz PL
 KL7G West Anchorage & Events
 449.65/444.65 Mhz, patch, no PL

Anchorage & Mat Valley Simplex Frequencies

146.52 Mhz Calling and Emergency frequency
 147.57 / 447.57 (crossband linked) HF spotters & chat
 146.49 Mhz Anchorage area simplex chat
 146.41 Mhz Mat Valley simplex chat

This Month's Speaker

There will be a special speaker this month for the Christmas party Frank Bailey will show us *how they do that*, with voices and synthesized sounds to make a work of art. The Christmas Party will be held at the same place as last year, upstairs at the Atwood Center, starting at 7 pm. The club will provide Meat, Salad, Drinks (coffee, tea, punch), the eating utensils (cups, plates, forks, etc.).

You will need the following items:

Relish Tray (olivies/pickels/cranberry sauce/deviled eggs)
Side Dishes (sweet potatoes/mashed potatoes),
Salads (pasta/jello) Rolls (bread/garlic bread/ rolls)
Deserts (cake/cookies/pies/ice-cream)

If your Last name starts with A thru F bring a relish tray
If your Last name starts with G thru J bring a side dish
If your Last name starts with K thru M bring a salad
If your Last name starts with N thru Q bring rolls
If your Last name starts with R thru Z bring a desert
If you have something special you would like to bring other than what you last name requests please RSVP to KL7EO at 337-1091.

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EVERYONE IS WELCOME: You don't need to be a member of the club to attend the meetings or any other AARC events, although we do encourage any non-member to join our group. See THIS MONTH'S EVENTS for the location and time for the meeting and other events.

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~~~ HOT LINKS ~~

Internet Web links, the favorites from our readers
AARC <http://kl7aa.akconnect.com>
SCRC <http://www.servcom.com/worcester/scrc.htm>
EARS <http://ww2.customcpu.com/kl7air/default.htm>
KL7J <http://www.alaska.net/~buchholz>

Fairbanks AARC:

<http://ffidlm1mac.uafsom.alaska.edu/aarc/aarc.html>

Yukon Amateur Radio Association:

<http://www.klondike.com/yara/index.html>

HAARP Project:

<http://server5550.itd.nrl.navy.mil/projects/haarp/>

<<Amateur Radio Reference Library>>

<http://www.area-ham.org/library/libindex.html>

Hamradio: <http://www.hamrad.com/>

Solar Terrestrial Activity <http://209.130.27.95/solar/>

ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/>

Propagation Report Recording 566-1819

please let us know if there are other club pages or good starting points that should appear here

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VHF NETS ABOUND

All of you new HAMs take note: there are lots of nets nice folks to visit with. The Son of Sideband Net runs each Monday night at 9:00 PM local on 144.200 Mhz USB with a 6 Meter extension on 50.200 Mhz USB. On Tuesday night, the Big City Simplex Net operates on 146.520 FM at 8:00 PM local. On Thursday the ARES net starts at 8:00 PM on the 147.30/.90 repeater with Amateur News line followed at 9:00 PM by the PARKA net. On Sunday there are two nets at the same time. In Anchorage, the QCWA net runs at 8:00 PM on the 146.97/.37 repeater (103.5 Hz PL) and in the valley the 850 No Name Net runs on the 146.85/.25 repeater. We are starting an informal net during the morning and evening drive times on 146.52 Simplex. All are welcome to check into what we are calling the "Stuck in Traffic Net". The object is to share traffic information, handle emergency traffic, and have a nice visit on the way to work. Net control will hand off until everyone is at work or safely home.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: All articles from members and interested persons are very welcome. If you wish to submit any articles, jokes, cartoons, please have it typed or neatly handwritten. It can be submitted by computer disk, fax, or E-mail to the newsletter editor at the address listed on the cover. Submissions must be in the hands of the editor at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

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Regular HAM Gatherings:

- * Tuesdays, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM: Join the gang for lunch and an eyeball QSO at the Royal Fork, Old Seward,

Saturdays, 7:30 AM: Here is a great way to get started on the week-end come and meet with some of the locals and have a great breakfast at Phillips Restaurant, at the corner of Arctic and International. Great Fun.

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ABACUS RADIO REPAIR

Factory authorized service for: Kenwood, ICOM, Yaesu, Alinco, Amateur radio equipment.

Call Jim Wiley, KL7CC (907) 338-0662

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THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

December 4: ARRC general meeting at 7:00 PM There will not be a general meeting this month but instead there will be a Christmas party. Carr-Gottstein Building A Campus. Talk in on 146.94 repeater

December 2: VE License Exams 6:30 PM Carr-Gottstein Building, APU Campus. Bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

December 12: ARES Planning Committee 9:30 AM. Conference Room at BP Exploration. Everyone welcome. Focusing on preparedness and training.

December 12: VE License Exams. Hope Cottage Offices, 540 W. International in the Board Room. At 2:00 PM. Be sure to bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

December 11: SCRC general meeting at 7:00 PM room 220, Business Ed. Bldg., UAA campus. Talk in on 147.57 simplex.

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*Note from the Editor
Edie Lynn, KL0EO*

Great news the elections are over and done with. I would like to take this time to congratulate all the new officers that were elected by a unanimous vote. If you don't know them here they are and give them a great big congrats. We would also like to say thanks to the outgoing officers.

President:	Peter Bailey, WL7BW
Vis-President:	Susan Woods, NL7NN
Secretary:	Marcia Knutson, AL7RE
Treasurer:	Paul Spatzek, WL7BF
3 yr. Board:	John Orella, KL7LL
1 yr Board:	Rob Wilson, AL7KK
	Corney Eastman, KL0FK
	Diane Hammer, NL7KN

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*Protecting Our Legacy
David Sumner, K1ZZ*

The simple fact that Amateur Radio exists, never excesses to amaze me.

We tend to take for granted that as private individuals, we can buy or build radio transmitters and can use them to talk to our counterparts around town across the country, on the other side of the world - even to an astronaut or cosmonaut in space. It could easily have been different. We might never have known these pleasures.

At the dawn of the age of radio early in this century, there were powerful forces that opposed the use of radio by amateurs. Radio was for commerce, for maritime safety, or for the military. Surely, these purposes were too important to risk interference from mere hobbyists!

What if no one had accepted the challenge to answer such arguments? What if the earliest radio amateurs had not

compiled a record of service to the public and to their country? What if amateur experimenters had not been the first to appreciate the true value of the short waves? What if, having recognized 75 years ago that radio would become a global medium, the amateurs of that time had not bothered to organize on a global basis to protect their interest?

What if? The answer is stark, simple, and unpleasant: You and I would have missed out on the enrichment that Amateur Radio has brought to our lives. We owe past generations of radio amateurs an enormous debt. The only way we can repay that debt is to protect their legacy - not only for ourselves, but for future generations.

This is the vision that for decades has guided the leaders of the ARRL. As a League member, you share in that vision. You understand why the ARRL exists, why it supports the work of the International Amateur Radio Union, and why your dues must pay for more than *QST* magazine and the individual services you receive as a member. You know why the ARRL Board of Directors created the Fund for the Defense of Amateur Radio Frequencies, so we could be sure there would always be funds available to do what is necessary to defend our precious access to the radio spectrum.

If you have been following what's happening in the wider world of telecommunications, you know that the challenges facing Amateur Radio and the ARRL have never been greater. The Internet is changing how we work and live, including how we pursue our radio avocation. Digital personal communications systems are being deployed all across the country and around the world. Satellite telephones are about to take a great leap forward, bringing reliable mobile phone service to the farthest reaches of the planet. Digital television is on the way.

That's not all. The Little LEOs - low-cost, low-speed data satellites - are still hungering for frequencies around our most popular VHF and UHF bands. There's a push to find spectrum around 430 MHz for a satellite-borne radar to monitor the environment. Companies wanting to sell wireless local area net-words are looking for more access to the spectrum. Futuristic intelligent transportation systems need allocations. Radio-astronomers want more protection for their sensitive receivers. On top of that, some politicians still think that auctioning off the radio spectrum is a way to generate "free money."

You may have heard that the next ITU World Radiocommunication Conference will be held in the year 2000 instead of 1999. That may sound like a long delay, but it isn't - the postponement is for less than six months. You may have heard that some issues have been put off until 2001 or later, so the need to prepare may seem less urgent. It isn't. Those who seek more spectrum access at our expense are hard at work developing their justifications, and we must work just as hard. Having a longer time to prepare simply means that the volunteers and staff who perform this work on your behalf under the ARRL and IARU banners have more meetings to cover, more papers to read and write, more technical studies to perform.

I have just written a every ARRL member in the United States, asking that they support the Fund for the Defense of Amateur Radio Frequencies with a voluntary contribution, above and beyond their membership dues. When you receive the letter, please respond as generously as you can.

In protecting our legacy, we can afford to do no less than our best. The access to the radio spectrum that we enjoy is a priceless national and international resource. If we lose it, we lose it for-ever.

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AAA Says LMCC "Backing Away" from 70 cm Request *QST November 1998*

An official of the American Automobile Association says the Land Mobile communications Council (LMCC) is backing away from its request that the FCC reallocate 420 to 430 MHz and 440 to 450 MHz from the federal government to the Private Mobile Radio Service. Amateur Radio has a secondary allocation on the band. AAA's Gary Ruark says he doubts the FCC will ever agree to the request in the face of strong support for continued amateur Radio presence. The AAA is an LMCC member.

In an August 31 letter to San Diego SEC David Doan, KC6YSO, Ruark said that strong support for ham radio from the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO) and the National Telecommunications & Information Administration caused the LMCC to back off its demand to reallocated the 70 cm sub-bands it requested last spring. Because of that, Ruark said, "it is doubtful that the FCC would ever agree to that portion of the LMCC petition addressing sharing with amateur radio operators."

In June, AAA asked the LMCC to file supplemental comments with the FCC to withdraw the request to share the 70 cm band with Amateur Radio. The LMCC declined. "The decision was based on the perception that to change the language now could undermine the rest of the petition," Ruark explained. Ruark, the AAA's emergency road service technical communications specialist, said the AAA would be unable to get the LMCC to reverse its position "because there is not enough support to win a vote on the matter."

But Ruark said it was his understanding that the LMCC "would not continue to actively seek access to the amateur radio spectrum, and would forfeit that language during FCC negotiations in exchange for more important spectrum allocations.

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Maritime Mobile from Alaska's Panhandle John Reisenauer Jr., K7JR

If the fish aren't biting, hoist the antenna and catch some DX

There's something magical about operating HF maritime mobile from Alaska's deep blue waters. Tidew[~] glaciers, spectacular fjords, massive ice fields and ru[~] snow-capped mountains conspire to leave you spellbound. On an early afternoon in June 1998, Captain Bob Hites and First Mate Brenda Treffry, of Alaska Island Adventures, my son John, KC7FVA, and I left Wrangell, Alaska, on the 44-foot F/V *Longshot* for Point Baker, Alaska.

The harbor was alive with the sounds and the odor of the sea as I eagerly inspected the ship's HF gear. I was impressed! The boat sported an IC-737A transceiver with an SGC-232 tuner coupled to a 35-foot mast-mounted wire vertical antennal

Our quest was fishing, beach-combing and keeping in contact with new and old friends, including our loved ones back home, via Amateur Radio. Our HF rigs (including my back-up station) were along to handle emergencies. Unfortunately, Gary, WL7LV (Brenda's OM), owner of Alaska Island Adventures, was away on business and couldn't join us.

CQ CQ CQ deWL7JR/MM KL7 **(56 26.22 N, 132 58.41 W)**

Twenty meters exploded with calls shortly after I unkeyed the mike from the wheel house of the *Longshot*. 4U1WB, KL1V, KL7KG, F5SL, AB7PX, WB0TVP and several others easily made the log. We were asked again and again for our position and for a description of the weather. Most everyone chuckled when I mentioned we w[~] not on an island.

As Captain Bob took a turn working the pileup for a bit, I could see that we had a new DXer on our hands! Bob has been studying for his ham license and plans to be tested soon. Gary's station and antenna were working just fine.

After working the bands a while longer, we docked in St. John's Harbor in Zarembo Island to make camp. Zarembo is a largely forested island with rocky, driftwood-littered beaches that are typical of the region. After a hearty ribeye steak dinner we took the dinghy *Shortshot* out fishing and beach-combing. The fishing was slow-we caught only a few small salmon and halibut-but the weather was absolutely incredible.

The next day John pulled in a small sand shark and conned Bob into barbecuing it. It wasn't bad! Under clear skies and excellent propagation, I worked a few more Ws and VEs on 20 meters as we shoved off for the next fishing hole.

Geography 101

Along Alaska's Inside Passage lies 17 million acres of lush forest and snow-covered peaks called the Tongass National Forest. Our journey starts in the heart of the Tongass, in the Alexander Archipelago, a group of about 11,000 islands (actually the tops of submerged mountains) Alaska's panhandle.

Southeastern Alaska stretches 560 miles from Dixon Entrance at the US-Canada border south of Ketchikan, to Icy

Bay northwest of Yakutat. From Wrangell, on Wrangell Island, to Point Baker, on Baker Island, we passed hundreds of islands. The largest were Kuiu, Zarembo and Kupreanof.

Anchoring at Point Baker

We received a warm welcome at Ruffie's Bed and Breakfast on Baker Island. I couldn't help but wonder if Gary, WL7LV, had set me up because of the questions I was being asked.

"So, you're a ham, too?" and, "Gary says you guys can talk all over the world, eh?" were typical.

It sure felt good to be on land again. Point Baker's other amenities include a bar, a cafe (Alaska's last floating saloon), a local store and a Post Office.

I was able to hang my G5RV antenna from the second-story balcony to demonstrate ham radio to a few of the locals. In the first hour we made more than 75 contacts all over the US and Canada. Keith, LK7KG, worked us again on ground wave from Petersburg, across the bay.

My guests were impressed, especially when we made more contacts from *Longshot*. Thanks go to Judy and Herb Hoyt for allowing me to activate their island. We fished the next morning and picked up a few bottom fish before setting out for Wrangell.

Enroute to Kupreanof Island (56 33.07 N, 133 04.94 W)

I was working a pileup on 20 meters as John took over the Captain's duties while Brenda and Bob changed fuel tanks and prepared dinner. We dined on deck to a delicious barbecued chicken dinner—we sure were eating well up here! John and I made a few more stateside radio contacts before calling it a day.

On the water, the fresh air is nothing short of invigorating. An early morning fog and light rain had set in, the first precipitation of our trip. Propagation was poor on 20 meters for most of the day as we fished along the coast of Kupreanof and Woewodski islands. Later, we enjoyed beach-combing on Butterworth Island.

Propagation picked up the next morning, and I racked up a bunch of QSOs (VE3XN, VE7IU, VE7YI, VE3NSZ/M, W9HAO and AA7AV to name a few). Gary, VE3XN, asked for our position. He collects countries, counties, islands, national parks, prefixes and maritime mobiles (did I miss anything?). A few hours later and a hundred more Qs, I snagged TF8GX and OE6MKG on the first calls.

Time to Head Back

Although at times we worked extremely hard at fishing and DXing, we had a most enjoyable time. We crawled into and out of the dinghy so many times we could probably do it in our sleep.

Before we set anchor off Vank Island, I worked many more Ws and VEs from the wheelhouse. Evening saw us jumping into the *Shortshot* to get a close up of the many

bald eagles feeding on shore. what a sight! We counted more than two dozen of the mighty birds on a single beach.

I was impressed with the DX we worked from the big boat, especially since 20 meters was so up and down. We worked 4F4, KL7, F5, ZK1, ZL1, VE1 through VE7, VO1, G0, G3, TF8, and OE6. I almost fell out of the chair when the TF8 and OE6 ops acknowledged my first calls in big pileups.

I especially enjoyed spending time with my son doing what we both enjoy. Special thanks go to Brenda for her delicious meals; to Captain Bob for his expert seamanship and his untiring willingness to rig the dinghy for fishing and island jaunts; and to Gary, WL7LV, for arranging our travel and the use of the ship's radio.

I highly recommend Alaska Island Adventures (I discovered them in *QST*) for its unique services. John and I will long remember our adventure in southeastern Alaska - and our new friends.

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ARLB095 ARRL Petitions FCC for LF Allocations
ARRL Bulletin 95 ARLB095
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT November 3, 1998

To all radio amateurs

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to create two low-frequency Amateur Radio allocations at 136 kHz and at 160 kHz. "These allocations will permit experimentation with equipment, antennas, and propagation phenomena in a small segment of the radio spectrum that has not been available to the Amateur Service for many years," the League's petition declared. The petition was filed with the FCC October 22.

Specifically, the League has proposed permitting CW, SSB, RTTY/data, and image emissions for amateurs in a 2.1-kHz "sliver band" from 135.7 to 137.8 kHz and in a 30-kHz segment from 160 to 190 kHz. The 135.7 to 137.8 kHz band adheres to the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) band plan.

The ARRL has proposed allowing a transmitter output in both LF segments of 200 W PEP, but in no case greater than 2 W EIRP (effective isotropic radiated power). The League's petition points out that poor antenna efficiencies and ground-loss characteristics likely would keep EIRPs at less than 1 W. The two bands would be available to General and higher licensees.

Unlicensed experimenters—some of them hams—currently operate on LF in the US under the FCC's Part 15 rules. These limit transmitter input power to 1 W and impose substantial restrictions on the size of the antenna. The proposed allocations "will provide the only low-frequency allocation for amateur use and will

accommodate more flexible experimentation than is permitted under current Part 15 regulations," the League's filing said.

Hams would be secondary to the Fixed and Maritime Mobile services in the 136-kHz allocation, and secondary to the Fixed Service in the 160-190 kHz band. The League said its engineering surveys suggest that hams could operate in the two segments without causing problems to power line carrier (PLC) systems already active in that vicinity or to government assignments. Unallocated, Part 15 PLC systems are used by electric utilities to send control signals, data and voice.

Calculations included with the League's filing demonstrate how inefficient even relatively large radiators can be on LF. For example, at 200 W TPO (transmitter power output) and a 200 foot vertical radiator, efficiency is only in the range of 1%, yielding up to 2 W EIRP. A more practical setup—200 W TPO into a 100-foot vertical radiator (efficiency of 0.2%) would yield an EIRP of between 10 and 40 mW.

Several countries throughout the world already enjoy LF allocations. These include New Zealand, Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland, and several European nations.

A copy of the petition is available on ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org>.

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FCC LEVIES HEFTY FINE ON JERSEY HAM *From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 17, No. 45*

The FCC has levied a \$7500 fine on a New Jersey ham who interfered with a net operation on 40 meter SSB. James C. Thompson, KA2YBP, of Waretown also was ordered off 40 meters until further notice after the October 18 incident. The case against Thompson, 58, stemmed from interference complaints from other amateurs, including the Association of North American Radio Clubs (ANARC), which conducts a Sunday morning net on 7240 kHz.

The FCC charged Thompson with illegally retransmitting programs from a Standard Broadcast (AM) station on 40 meters and willfully interfering with the net. The FCC also said Thompson failed to properly identify.

The FCC issued an Official Notice of Violation October 21. In replying to the NOV, Thompson admitted the violations, the FCC said November 9. "Applying the Forfeiture Policy Statement and statutory factors to the instant case, we have determined that a monetary forfeiture in the amount of \$7,500 is warranted," the FCC's notice said. Thompson has 30 days to pay the fine or appeal it.

The Thompson case marked the Commission's first amateur enforcement action since the FCC announced it would consolidate amateur enforcement within the Compliance and Information Bureau. The CIB's advisor for enforcement, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says he's spoken with nearly 100 individuals about enforcement complaints or issues since the FCC's latest enforcement initiative began. The FCC expects additional amateur enforcement cases to develop as a result of calls to the Amateur Enforcement Line, 202-418-1184.

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NEW MINI-SPUTNIK LAUNCHED FROM MIR *From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 17, No. 45*

Russian cosmonauts launched a second mini-Sputnik satellite November 10 during a spacewalk from the Mir space station. The launch of Sputnik 41—also being called RS-18—comes just over a year after the launch of Sputnik 40, which commemorated the launch of the first artificial Earth satellite by the USSR in 1957.

Among the first in the US to report hearing the new satellite was Ken Carlstrom, N1WED, in New Hampshire. He reported hearing Sputnik 41 from approximately 0604 to 0609 UTC on November 11 at 145.8145 MHz.

The newest Sputnik was tossed by hand at the start of the spacewalk by cosmonauts Gennady Padalka and Sergei Avdeyev. According to an AP report, Padalka told Avdeyev to "toss it gently toward the moon."

Sputnik 41, which arrived on Mir aboard a Progress supply rocket late last month, was financed by the Aeroclub de France to mark its centennial. Two Sputnik 40 models were transported to Mir last year, but only one was launched. The other remains aboard the space station.

Like its predecessor, Sputnik 41 is just under 8 inches in diameter and weighs almost 9 pounds. It carries a 200 mW transmitter that transmits on or about 145.812 MHz (\pm 5 kHz and Doppler shift). The spacecraft has no solar cells. Its expected operational lifetime is approximately 30 days.

Sputnik 41 broadcasts pre-recorded voice greetings in three languages, French, English, and Russian. The Russian-accented English greetings say "1998 was the International Year of Air and Space" and "International Space School Sputnik Program." The French and Russian messages convey the same greetings. The new spacecraft provides a "bip-bip" beacon. The frequency of the audio tone indicates the satellite's internal temperature. The tone is transmitted every 90 seconds.

Sputnik 41 reception reports go to AMSAT-France, QSL Spoutnik 41, 14 bis rue des Gourlis, F-92500 Rueil-Malmaison, FRANCE. The 1998 International Year of Air and Space page is at <http://www.ccr.jussieu.fr/physio/Satedu/sputnik41.html>.

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ARRL HAM GEAR ARRIVES IN HONDURAS

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 17, No. 45

Portable and mobile VHF transceivers shipped by the ARRL last week have arrived in flood-stricken Honduras to help in the ongoing relief effort.

"Thank you for all your support and help on this great ordeal our country has been forced to undertake," said Omar Paredes, HR1OP, in an e-mail message November 11 to ARRL Headquarters. Paredes is secretary of the Club de Radio Aficionados Central de Honduras (CRACH) in Tegucigalpa, which accepted the equipment.

Hams in Honduras who still have operational stations or gear have been using Amateur Radio to maintain communication, since telephone service is erratic or out completely. "We are working very hard trying to provide communication within our country as well as with families abroad that need to know about their relatives," Paredes said. Stations in Honduras have been operating off batteries or from gasoline generators.

The League also sent a 2-meter repeater, diplexer and antenna to a club in La Ceiba to restore communication between the mainland and the islands of Roatan and Guanaja. The equipment is part of the League's disaster communications inventory, and some of it has seen service in other weather disasters.

Relief agencies from the US and elsewhere are undertaking massive efforts to feed, clothe, and shelter the thousands of flood victims, and some agencies have been making use of Amateur Radio for communication. The storm left more than 10,000 dead and one million homeless in Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Guatemala. The storm left the communications and public utilities infrastructure in shambles.

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) continues to operate on HF. The Amateur Radio net is providing an information service to help families search for missing relatives, relaying information between Central and North America. SATERN also is handling logistical and emergency needs traffic. The disaster has revived the phone patch in this Internet era. "Since my involvement, I've handled about 10 phone patches between the folks in Honduras and various places from Maine to Washington state," said Harry Bryant, AA2WN, in New Jersey, who's been

active on SATERN. Charles Lassiter, KD5AHW, in Texas, reports he and Bob Sanford, KC5SMC, have been relaying traffic to and from the Mercy Ships/Mercy Ministries in Tyler, Texas, to their orphanage and mission in Honduras.

Individuals in the US with relatives in the affected area may submit a health-and-welfare inquiry via e-mail to SATERN to be relayed via Amateur Radio. Requests should include the name(s) of the person(s) being inquired about; their last known address; your name, address, and telephone number; and your e-mail address. Send your inquiry to qnwa4bzy@mindspring.com. A form also is available on the SATERN Web site at <http://www.angelfire.com/l/satern411/emailfrm.html>.

The FCC declared the SATERN 14.265 MHz frequency off-limits to hams who are not involved in handling emergency traffic. The mandatory communications emergency was declared to support the Central America disaster relief effort. Under the order, amateurs are required to refrain from using 14.265 MHz (plus or minus 3 kHz) unless they are taking part in the handling of emergency traffic. The order remains in effect until rescinded.

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FCC SHUTS DOWN FOUR HF PIRATES

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 17, No. 45

The FCC has shut down four unauthorized HF broadcasters in Massachusetts, Illinois, Texas, and California. The stations all transmitted on 6955 kHz. Two of the operators are radio amateurs, according to an FCC spokesperson, who said the ham licenses "are definitely in jeopardy." The two hams were identified as 41-year-old Richard F. Jurrens, KC5RGK, a Technician licensee who lives in Katy, Texas, and 46-year-old Henry Lee "Hank" Landsberg, WB6MEU, an Advanced class licensee who lives in Sierra Madre, California. The names of the others cited were being withheld pending further official action.

In making the busts, the FCC's Columbia, Maryland, Operations Center coordinated and provided information to FCC agents from the Boston, Chicago, Houston and Los Angeles offices. FCC inspectors from those offices then performed on-site visits to the unauthorized stations.

With the exception of certain low-power Part 15 devices, broadcasting on the HF bands is not authorized without a station license. Under the Communications Act, violators may be subject to penalties up to \$11,000 and the equipment used may be seized and forfeited by court order. Unlicensed operators also face criminal

fines of up to \$100,000 and/or imprisonment for up to one year, or both, for a first time offense.

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DRAKE ENDS FACTORY SERVICE FOR OLDER GEAR

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 17, No. 45

R. L. Drake Company has announced it no longer will provide factory service for most of its older Amateur Radio and marine equipment. The list includes much—but not all—of the popular 4-Line equipment.

Veteran Drake Service Manager Bill Frost, WD8DFP, says it's getting harder to get parts for the older Drake units. "The big switches, you can't buy those things anymore," he said this week. "The big electrolytics are not available."

Frost, who's been with Drake for 32 years, said his department has "reached a point where we cannot service the older products in the manner to which our customers have become accustomed." Technicians familiar with the older, mostly tube-type gear also are in short supply these days. "Our technical expertise on the older equipment has gradually been diminished by the loss of long-time employees due to retirement," Frost said. He also said the cost of repairs can easily exceed the cost of the equipment.

The company has posted a list on its Web site at <http://www.rldrake.com/tech/Outofservice.html> of items that it no longer can service. The list includes The R-4 and R-4A receivers, the popular T-4X, XB, and XC HF transmitters, and the TR-3 and TR-4 transceivers, as well as most of the power supplies for those units, the SSR-1 receiver, and the TR-22, 22C and TR-33C 2-meter transceivers. Items on the list are sent to Drake for repair will be returned to the sender unrepairs accompanied by a bill for shipping, handling, and applicable COD fees.

Frost said Drake is still servicing "to an extent" the R-4B and R-4C receivers as well as the TR-5 and TR-7 transceivers. The company also still will provide factory repair service for the L-4, L-4B and L-7 linear amplifiers.

Drake says its supply of unique parts is limited, but it still might be able to supply individual owners with needed parts for do-it-yourself repairs. Frost encouraged Drake owners to call or write if they have any questions about repair or service of a particular piece of equipment—even if it's already on the list.

Call Frost at 513-746-4556 or e-mail him at Bill.Frost@rldrake.com. Frost's mailing address is Bill Frost, R.L. Drake Co, Service Dept, 230 Industrial Dr, Franklin, OH 45005.

QST Product Review Archive *From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 17, No. 45*

* Product review archive expanded: The QST Product Review columns for the 1980-1989 decade have now been added to those available on the ARRL Members Only Web Site archive. Files are in Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf). Viewing past Product Review columns requires Adobe Acrobat, which can be downloaded free of charge.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY MIR *From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 17, No. 45*

* Happy Birthday, Mir! The Russian Mir space station celebrates its 10th birthday this month. Mir, which has been home to several Amateur Radio operators over the years, including several US astronauts, began functioning November 6, 1988. Over the intervening years, more than 60 cosmonauts and astronauts aboard Mir have made thousands of radio contacts with earthbound hams. A message from Sergei Sambourov, RV3DR, chief of the Cosmonaut Amateur Radio Department, expressed thanks to all who promoted and participated in ham radio communication with Mir. QSLs for R0MIR or R0MIR-1 go to Dave Larsen, N6CO, Box 1501, Pine Grove, CA 95665. Requests should be accompanied by a business-sized self-addressed, stamped envelope with appropriate return IRC(s) or postage.—MIREX

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ARRL Hiram BBS terminated *From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 17, No. 45*

* Hiram BBS, on-line service accounts terminated: Effective January 1, the ARRL will terminate the Hiram Bulletin Board System (860-594-0306) because of declining use. Effective immediately, the ARRL has canceled its on-line service accounts with Compuserve and America Online. These services were deemed no longer necessary because of the availability of the now-expanded ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/> and e-mail service. Members wishing to contact ARRL Headquarters via e-mail should direct correspondence to hq@arrl.org. Individual staff members may be contacted directly by using either <call sign>@arrl.org (ie, n1rl@arrl.org) or <initial+last name>@arrl.org (ie, rjindquist@arrl.org).

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The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club News

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A Winter Tale

Once upon a time, a perfect man and a perfect woman met. After a perfect courtship, they had a perfect wedding. Their life together was, of course, ...perfect.

One snowy, stormy Christmas Eve, this perfect couple was driving their perfect car along a winding road, when they noticed someone at the side of the road in distress. Being the perfect couple, they stopped to help.

There stood Santa Claus with a huge bundle of toys. Not wanting to disappoint any children on the eve of Christmas, the perfect couple loaded Santa and his toys into their vehicle. Soon they were driving along delivering the toys.

Unfortunately, the driving conditions deteriorated and the perfect couple and Santa Claus had an accident. Only one of them survived the accident.

Who was the survivor?

The perfect woman survived. She's the only one who really existed in the first place. Everyone knows there is no Santa Claus and there is no such thing as a perfect man.

**** Women stop reading here, that is the end of the joke. ****

***** Men keep reading. *****

So, if there is no perfect man and no Santa Claus, the woman must have been driving. This explains why there was a car accident.

By the way, if you're a woman and you're reading this, this illustrates another point: women never listen either.